

Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 16 January 2013  
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
**MINUTES**

*Members present:* Neil Facchinetti, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann. *Members absent:* Aline Booth (Alt.), Joan Buck (Alt.), Robert Dahn, Peter Drzewiecki, John Silander. *Others present:* Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent), Linda Painter (Town Planner).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:35p by Chair Quentin Kessel, in the absence of a quorum but with hope that one might yet materialize {it did not}.

2. Approval of the **draft minutes** of the December meeting was deferred to a time when a quorum could be assembled.

3. **IWA referral (W1510, Sauve Subdivision, 29 N. Windham Rd).** The developer proposes to subdivide an 11-acre parcel off N. Windham Rd. into 3 lots, to be accessed by a common driveway. The designated open space on the pre-application plan for this “Open Space Subdivision” {discussed by the Commission at its September meeting, item 4d of 09/19/12 minutes} has disappeared, replaced by agricultural easements, a change apparently encouraged by comments on the pre-application plan from the Open Space Preservation Committee. Lehmann expressed surprise at that committee’s preference for an agricultural easement on private land over public open space, welcome as this might be to the developer. Kessel noted that private agricultural land affords the public views of (if not access to) open space and that residents of this subdivision would have access to a great deal of public open space in adjacent Mansfield Hollow State Park. Lehmann also wondered whether wetlands would be adequately protected under the agricultural easements, since state statutes exempt farming operations from certain regulations protecting inland wetlands. It is not clear whether enforceable wetlands protections can be written into agricultural easements. Lacking a quorum, the Commission took no action.

4. **Reports.**

a. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Painter distributed a “Town Council Update” dated 01/14/13 describing the Mansfield Tomorrow planning process. A “Community Kick-Off Meeting” to explain the project to townspeople and invite their participation will be held at 7:00p on 01/30/13 at the Buchanan Center. A “Forum on Growing Farms in Mansfield” for invited participants will take place from 8:30a to 2:00p on 02/02/13 at the Buchanan Center. A “Visioning Workshop” open to everyone is planned for 03/09/13. An “Advisory Group to serve as a sounding board for the consultant team and staff and assist with community outreach during the development of the new Plan of Conservation and Development” is being formed. Kessel asked Painter to be included in this group; should he be appointed, Facchinetti agreed to serve as his alternate. Focus groups responsible for developing strategies on Housing, Agriculture, and Economic Development have yet to be formed {among these issues of concern, Conservation is conspicuous only by its absence}.

b. **Water Source Study.** Painter reported that another public meeting to solicit comments on the draft EIE will be held in Farmington later in January and that the comment period has been extended to the end of the month.

c. **Eagleville Brook Impervious Surface TMDL Project.** Painter reported that an informal committee of Town staff has been assembled to follow this project. It may try to

arrange a tour to see what the University has done to reduce or slow storm-water runoff (rain gardens, pervious pavement, etc.), which Commission members would be invited to join.

**d. CL&P Interstate Reliability Project.** Painter reported that the Connecticut Siting Council has approved a second 345kV transmission line in CL&P's right-of-way through NE Connecticut, rejecting all but one of the mitigation measures suggested by the Town – even those to which CL&P had no objection – on grounds of cost. The one exception was rerouting the Hawthorne Lane section, which may happen if all the paperwork can be completed soon enough.

**e. Open Space Acquisitions.** Kessel reported that the Town has (or soon will) close on the purchase of two interior parcels, adjacent (resp.) to Dunhamtown Forest and Wolf Rock. {See minutes of 11/14/12, item 7.}

**f. UConn Agronomy Farm.** Facchinetti reported that UConn has identified 4 of the 33 experimental chemicals being tested in its turf management study at the Agronomy Farm, and has initiated a Freedom of Information process to determine what else it may disclose, given confidentiality agreements with those paying for the study.

**5. Adjourned** at 8:22p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 20 February 2013.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 17 January 2013; approved 20 February 2013.